

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A videophone station for conversation between a ~~first so-called~~ local person (1) and ~~at least one second so-called~~ a distant person via a telecommunication network (3), ~~comprising~~ having a means of oral telecommunication (4), ~~the videophone station comprising~~ characterized in that it comprises:

a digital processing unit (5) ~~designed operative~~ to receive at least one of a distant person image and data ~~of conversation with~~ relative to said distant person[[,]] ;

a generally vertical first screen (6) ~~arranged facing said local person, designed operative~~ to display at least one the distant person image received by the digital processing unit [[(5),]] ;

means of ~~eapture of~~ capturing an image (7) of said local person, said means being that are arranged relative to the first screen in such a way as to minimize a first angle (α) between a picture taking axis of the means ~~of eapture~~ and a viewing axis of the first screen[[,]] ;

a second screen (8) arranged at ~~the a~~ a foot of the first screen (6) and oriented on an inclined plane (9), the second screen disposed between the first screen and which separates the first screen from said local person[[,]] designed to for display displaying all or some of the data received by the digital processing unit (5), relative to said distant person; and

control means (10) ~~arranged disposed~~ between the second screen (8) and said local person, and ~~designed operative~~ to drive the digital processing unit (5).

2. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first (6) and ~~the second~~ screens (8) ~~are~~ comprise flat screens.

3. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the image capture means (7) ~~comprise~~ comprises a camera having ~~its own a~~ a unique network address, the camera and ~~designed operative~~ to send video frames over the telecommunication network (3).

4. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the control means ~~(10) comprised~~ comprises at
least one of a mouse and/or and a joystick (10') linked with the digital processing unit, and
~~in that the digital processing unit (5) is designed~~ being operable to steer a distant camera
proximate said distant person as a function of in response to commands received from at least
one of the mouse or from and the joystick (10').

5. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the digital processing unit ~~(5) is connected to a~~
local area network ~~(11) to which are connected other similar~~ including at least one other
videophone stations station.

6. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in ~~one of claims claim 1~~
~~to 4, characterized in that wherein~~ the digital processing unit ~~(5) is connected to a telephone~~
link ~~(12) of being at least one of a ADSL or and ISDN type~~.

7. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the first screen ~~(6) is designed~~ operative to also
display information relating to an environment of ~~conversation with at least one said~~ distant
person.

8. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the control means ~~(10) comprise~~ comprises a
keyboard ~~(10')~~ and ~~in that the digital processing unit (5) is designed~~ being operable to record
data entered by the local person ~~with the aid of via~~ the keyboard ~~(10')~~.

9. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~
~~claims claim 1, characterized in that further comprising a work table that orients the first and~~
second screens so that a first viewing axis for viewing the first screen (13) perpendicular to
the plane of the first screen makes an angle of approximately 30° with respect to a horizontal
plane and the local person's viewing axis and in that the second screen (8) is integrated into a

work table (14) so that the inclined plane (9) which supports it makes is oriented at an angle of approximately 40° with the horizontal plane.

10. (Currently amended) The videophone station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the camera (7) is ~~arranged-disposed proximate above or below the first screen (6) in and immediate proximity at least one of immediately above and below the first screen.~~

11. (Currently amended) ~~The A videophone~~ method for conversation between a ~~first so-called local person (1) and at least one second so-called a~~ distant person via a videophone station connected to a telecommunication network (11) and including a camera and first and second screens, characterized in that it comprises the method comprising the steps of:

a first permanent step (25) consisting in capturing an image of the local person with the camera;

and in displaying telecommunication information on a the first screen (6) that is arranged-oriented to be facing said local person[[,]] ;

a second step (26) consisting in establishing a telephone an audio link between the local person and the distant person selected by means of relative to the displayed telecommunication information[[,]] ;

a third step (27) consisting in displaying on a second first screen (8) arranged on an inclined plane (9) between the first screen (6) and the local person, data relative to the distant person received by a digital processing unit (5); ; and

determining if video communication between the local person and the distant person should be initiated.

a fourth step (28) consisting in displaying on the first screen (6) an interface for driving a camera situated facing the distant person;

a fifth step (29) consisting in displaying on the first screen (6), an image of the distant person captured by said camera.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:
establishing a video communication link between the local person and the distant person;
transferring the data relative to the distant person from the first screen to the second screen which is oriented between the first screen and the local person; and
displaying an image on the first screen of the distant person that is captured by a distant camera that is proximate to and facing the distant person.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of displaying on at least one of the first and second screens an interface for driving the distant camera.

14. (New) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of displaying a telemetry template on at least one of the first and second screens for monitoring sensor data relative to the distant person.

15. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of interrogating a data server based on the telecommunication information to receive information relating to the distant person, the data server in communication with the videophone station.

16. (New) A videophone system comprising:
a local area network including a gateway that attaches the local area network to a wide area network;
a videophone connected to the local area network and a telephone network, the videophone including a microcomputer, a first camera having a first network address, a generally vertical first screen linked to the first microcomputer, an inclined second screen linked to the first microcomputer and disposed at a foot of the first screen, and a control means linked with the first microcomputer; and
a remote station connected to at least one of the telephone network and the wide area network, the remote station including a screen for displaying an image captured by the first camera, and a second camera having a second network address and driveable by the control means.

17. (New) The videophone system of claim 16 further comprising a database server connected to the local area network, the database server storing information relative to a user of the remote station for retrieval by the first microcomputer.

18. (New) The videophone system of claim 16 wherein the control means comprises at least one of a keyboard, a joystick and a mouse.

19. (New) The videophone system of claim 16 wherein the remote station further comprises a second control means for driving the first camera.

20. (New) The videophone system of claim 16 wherein the wide area network comprises at least one of the Internet and the public switched telephone network.